

10 Southwell Gardens London SW

13 March 1866

My dear Gray - The parcel of S. American
Plants so long delayed - has been confided
to Mess^m Wesley & I hope that it may soon reach
you - I have sometimes doubted whether
you ever had a full set of T. Coulter's Plants
of California & Mexico - if for no other reason
because I rather think that he was the first
discoverer of a good many plants of those
regions which have gone to the credit of
subsequent explorers. I first knew him in
1842 some years after his return from America
He was in charge of the Herbarium at Trinity College Dublin
which was chiefly founded on his collections in
various countries - He had gone through severe
& prolonged hardships in his explorations &
became a martyr to rheumatism & died not
long after I made his acquaintance - The duplicates
which were not numerous were distributed by
Harvey who had a very great regard for you
but I don't think he had yet learned to
know you when the Californian ships

were distributed - As I volunteered to help Harvey in his work in the Herbarium I got a tolerable set of duplicates - I have since identified most of the doubtful plants but I every now & then come on something incertae sedis - To day in arranging the Helioidae I come on one which Harvey, I think correctly, referred to *Helenium* - Of this I have two small specimens each rather under 6 inches in height = which I have little doubt belong to the same species. The one labelled 356 - California - has four short monolepalous branches from the base of which I enclose one - The leaves excepting one lowermost which is sinuate-pinnatifid are entire - The other specimen - labelled in Coulter's hand Monterey No 358 has only two branches & the leaves sinuate dentate & almost pinnatifid -

My eyes are very weak & I don't attempt to use even a lens at this moment. Perhaps to your familiar eye the sketch that I send will suffice.

I am for the second time this winter confined to the house & coupling vigorously. The season continues to be quite unusually severe & we are all more or less incommoded but have had nothing serious to lament.

Ever yours

John Ball

P.S. Sunday

This was late for the post yesterday & I open it to say that I believe what I have said about Coulter's plants to be all bosh. Last night - I returned to the Helioidae & found that you have more than once referred to Coulter's plants by their numbers.

E.g. under *Helenium Thunbergii*

I do not know whether you possess any account of Coulter's Wanderings & explorations - So far as I know he never published any account of them -